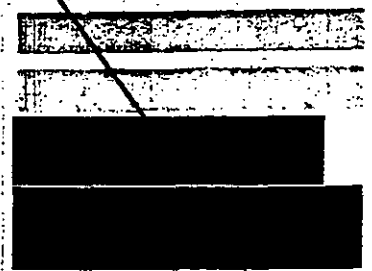




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CHILE: Increased Opposition Activity

Some 100 Chilean youths were arrested this week when opposition forces tested the government's tolerance as it moves toward liberalization. [REDACTED]

Those arrested were members of the youth movement of former President Frei's Christian Democratic Party--the regime's chief critic--which has been increasing its activities. The youths were accused of unlawful assembly and distributing party literature; their activity had the approval of Frei, who last summer openly demanded restoration of traditional freedoms. The regime is faced with the dilemma of trying to broaden political participation while denying a voice to the Christian Democrats. [REDACTED]

Opposition elements in the church, labor, and universities also have become restive. Students at three different institutions recently were suspended for unauthorized activities. [REDACTED]

The increased dissidence is the outgrowth of the regime's cautious steps toward greater freedom. This year, the government has allowed the resumption of strikes and collective bargaining under a new labor code. Authorities have also said that they will permit full public debate on the draft of a new constitution; portions of the nearly completed draft have been leaked to the press, prompting public discussion that the government has not silenced. [REDACTED]